

## Jennifer Seavy Pratt

Jennifer Pratt, the Chief of the Library Development Section of the North Carolina State Library, works closely with a diverse and talented staff to assess the needs of the library community and develop programs and resources that support continuous growth and improvement. Jennifer is responsible for her section's staff recruitment and development, budgeting and finance, and the management of the state's Aid to Public Libraries fund and the federal Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) program. She has built a strong motivated team that shares expertise and moves libraries forward. In 2010 Jennifer led the establishment of the NC Cardinal consortium, a statewide project focused on resource sharing across public libraries that now includes over one fourth of the state's public libraries.

Jennifer began her professional career in 1991 as the Public Services Librarian at the Haywood County Public Library in Waynesville, NC. She was promoted to Assistant Library Director in 1998 and became the Library Director in 2000. As the library director, she managed the renovation and retrofitting of the main library and two branches, and opened a fourth facility. She engaged with the staff, the Friends of the Library and the Board of trustees to increase the library's local support, and develop strong community partnerships. In 2007, Jennifer accepted the Library Development position at the State Library of North Carolina where she has increased her skills in finding and leveraging funds, and building consensus.

Jennifer earned a BS in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Florida and a Master of Library Science from the University of South Florida. She has been professionally active at both the state and national level, including a two year term as the Treasurer of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association and a leadership role in developing the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded Compass I and Compass II, a national project with WebJunction that supported public libraries' efforts to meet the urgent and growing needs of communities impacted by the economic downturn. She presents frequently on a variety of subjects and issues relating to public libraries. Jennifer lives in Durham, North Carolina with her husband Jim and her cat Scruffy. If she is not in a library, she can usually be found with her head in a book, or cooking up something in the kitchen.